

REMARKS

Description of amendments

Claims 6 and 9 are now pending and under examination, and claims 1-5, 7 and 8 are withdrawn. Applicants have amended claim 6. No new matter has been added.

The amendment to claim 6 is supported by the specification (page 79, line 12-15) and Fig. 21.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mouri (U.S. Patent 6,010,247). For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection with respect to amended claims 6 and 9.

The claimed bearing device can be easily installed on a support shaft by a user with no need for a special tool to apply a desired preload. The bearing device is constructed as to be fit for handling and transportation from the bearing manufacturer to a user where the bearing device is installed (see the specification at page 81, line 13-17, and page 81, line 4-10).

Taking into consideration of the possibility of contaminants entering the space where the rolling balls are arranged during handling and transportation, Applicants provide the claimed bearing device with seal rings between the outer

Serial No. 10/780,611
Reply to Office Action Mailed: 08/05/2005
Attorney Docket No. 038920.49554D1

ends of the outer rings and the outer ends of the inner rings. Mouri, on the other hand, does not teach that its bearing device is provided with such seal rings, because the bearing device is not intended to have its preload set at the bearing manufacturer and then sent to the user to be mounted.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038920.49554D1).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 7, 2005



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